



## CONNECTICUT STATE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

February 3, 2009

Senator Andrea Stillman, Co-Chair Public Safety & Security Committee  
Representative Stephen Dargan, Co-Chair Public Safety & Security Committee

My name is Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative for the Connecticut State Firefighters Association. The Association represents approximately 28,000 career and volunteer firefighters in Connecticut. Our Association wishes to go on record as being in support of three bills on today's agenda. You will be hearing from many speakers who will elaborate more than I on these bills, but this Association supports these bills.

### **Raised Senate Bill #759**      **AA Authorizing Bonds of the State for Regional Fire Schools**

I feel that the members of this committee are well aware of this project and do not need me to remind them of its importance. This committee has always supported this project. Presently the State has committed \$28 Million to this project. It is felt that before the end of this biennium this sum could be fully expended. However, this will complete only approximately 50% of the project. Additional bond funding at this time will allow for the continuation of this project. Other members of this Association's Education Committee will be providing more complete information on this item at this hearing.

### **Raised House Bill #6286**      **AA Shielding Fire Departments That Install Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors From Liability**

We support this initiative. It first arose in the 2008 legislative session. There are quite a few municipal fire departments in the State of Connecticut that have programs to install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors, and replacing batteries in existing detectors. Some of these programs are part of a public relations program, and other programs are aimed at residents who are less fortunate and unable to afford these life saving items. With these programs there could be a liability concern. With this legislation, fire departments and municipalities would not be held liable as long as these items were installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and are installed in such department's official capacity. Members of Connecticut's Fire Service leaders have met and compromised with the opposition of last year's initiative. Substitute language will be provided for this bill that is acceptable to both parties.

### **Raised House Bill #6289**      **AA Appropriating Funds For Firefighter Training**

This bill is a follow-up to legislation passed in 2007 that paid ONE-HALF of the cost of training for the Firefighter 1 and Recruit Training courses for new firefighters. The original 2007 proposal was to fully fund firefighter training for Firefighter 1, Recruit Training, Firefighter 2, Fire Officer 1, and Fire Service Instructor for municipal and state agency fire departments. We would suggest that this proposal could be implemented at this time, within available appropriations. While most all firefighters train to Firefighter or Recruit level of training, FF-2, FO-1, and FSI-1 are considered advanced training, and only a lesser amount of firefighters take advantage of these curriculum. We would, however, suggest some substitute language.

**WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT SECTION 2 OF THIS RAISED BILL BE DELETED.**

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. We would urge your passage of these bills.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Ted Schroll, Legislative Representative  
Connecticut State Firefighters Association